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Message from the President of the United States, transmitting a communication from the Secretary of War, relative to the construction of a military post at Fort Selden, New Mexico

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MILITARY POST AT FORT SELDEN, NEW MEXICO.

MESSAGE

FROM THE

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,

TRANSMITTING

A communication from the Secretary of War, relative to the construction of a military post at Fort Selden, New Mexico.

MARCH 4, 1882.—Referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

To the Senate and House of Representatives:

I transmit herewith, for the consideration of Congress, a communication from the Secretary of War, transmitting plans and estimates for the large military post proposed to be constructed at Fort Selden, New Mexico.

CHESTER A. ARTHUR.

EXECUTIVE MANSION,
March 3, 1882.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington City, March 2, 1882.

To the PRESIDENT:

I have the honor to transmit herewith plans and estimates in detail for the large military post proposed to be constructed at Fort Selden in Southern New Mexico.

The post is intended to accommodate an entire regiment of twelve companies, and the estimated cost of the buildings is \$251,451.69.

The accompanying correspondence explains the matter fully. The land belongs to the United States, and the General of the Army reports that the fort when built will immediately replace the following posts, most of which were established prior to 1860: Fort Craig, New Mexico; Fort Cummings, New Mexico; Fort McRae, New Mexico; Fort Thorn, New Mexico; Fort Bowie, Arizona, and Fort Grant, Arizona.

I beg to invite attention to the reports of the General of the Army, herewith transmitted, and respectfully recommend an appropriation of the amount estimated.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

ROBERT T. LINCOLN,
Secretary of War.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE MISSOURI,
Fort Leavenworth, Kans., December 20, 1881.

COLONEL: I desire to represent for the consideration of the division commander that the completion of the railroad system in Southern New Mexico and through Arizona, and the rapid advance of this system of roads across the line into Mexico, have made it essential, both to efficiency and economy of the military service in that region, and to meet the many causes of trouble and controversy which are now arising and certain to increase, both in extent and importance, in the near future, that we should rearrange in a large degree our military dispositions along that frontier.

Experience has made it manifest that the military interests will be best served by the establishment of one large post to replace the several small posts in that region of country. These small posts were necessary to protect localities before the facilities of throwing troops rapidly in every direction by rail were furnished by the present railroads. They have always been expensive and only in part effective, and should now be dispensed with as far as possible, the more especially as they were built with generally very perishable materials and are very old and well nigh uninhabitable.

I therefore have the honor to recommend that a large post and depot, capable at least of sheltering 12 companies of troops, be built at some suitable point in the vicinity of the junction of the two great railroads in Southern New Mexico, in lieu of the small posts established years ago in that region, and that an appropriation of \$200,000 be asked for that purpose. As this post will undoubtedly be one of the large permanent posts, at which in due time all of the small posts of the past will be concentrated, and is likely to be kept up for many years to come, it should be thoroughly and substantially built and supplied with everything necessary to make it complete.

It will be situated so as to command all that section of country in which raids of Indians from the east and west sides of the Rio Grande and from Mexico have occurred and are likely to occur again, and will of itself hold all the troops necessary for complete security. Every interest of economy, security, and efficiency will be promoted by the establishment of this post, and I trust that the money for building it may be appropriated and made available at the earliest practicable moment.

Plans of the necessary buildings will be furnished and submitted at the earliest moment, and of course before beginning the work, but the authority and the necessary appropriation for beginning the work are respectfully asked now so that there may be as little delay as possible.

I am, colonel, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN POPE,

Brevet Major-General Commanding.

Col. R. WILLIAMS,

Assistant Adjutant-General, Chicago, Ill.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION MISSOURI,
Chicago, January 3, 1882.

Respectfully forwarded for the consideration and indorsement of the General of the Army and of the honorable the Secretary of War. The reservation at old Fort Selden, the point selected for this new post, is in the Valley of the Rio Grande, immediately south of and under the mesa of the Jornada del Muerta. It is about midway between Fort

Bayard and Fort Stanton, and is on the line usually taken by the Mes-calero Indians in going west of the Rio Grande. It is also on the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fé Railroad line to El Paso and the city of Mexico; and is sufficiently convenient to the boundary line, which is only about 50 miles distant. The government has an untrammelled reservation of 4 miles square, which is sufficient. The Rio Grande runs immediately below the plateau which would be the parade ground of the garrison, and the railroad runs along the bank of the river. The location is healthful. A small quantity of timber covers the bottom of the Rio Grande below the post, and the grass and water are abundant. The establishment of this post has three principal objects:

- 1st. The control of the Indians;
- 2d. To break up and concentrate at it the garrisons now scattered at smaller posts, thereby saving great expense to the government; and
- 3d. Its international bearing.

El Paso will soon be a commercial point of great importance; the railroad is being rapidly built from there down to some of the larger cities of Mexico; and for the protection of the increasing public interests in the vicinity of El Paso, I deem it best to concentrate not far from there a considerable number of troops. I therefore earnestly recommend the establishment of the post. It should also be said that from Selden there will be close railroad connections with all the roads running through New Mexico.

P. H. SHERIDAN,
Lieutenant-General, Commanding.

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY,
Washington, January 7, 1882.

Respectfully submitted to the Hon. Secretary of War; approved and earnestly recommended. Such a post as is herein commended will be most important and most economical. It would immediately replace the following posts, most of which were established prior to 1860: Fort Craig, N. Mex.; Fort Cummings, N. Mex.; Fort McRea, N. Mex.; Fort Thorn, N. Mex.; Fort Bowie, Ariz.; Fort Grant, Ariz.

The proposed post is on land already the property of the United States; is near the junction of three important railroads already completed, viz, Texas Pacific, California Southern, and the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fé; is designed to accommodate a whole regiment, so as to send off detachments, if called for, north, east, south, and west. El Paso, on the Mexican border, would be the true strategic point; but the locality is, for geographical reasons, unsuited. This of Fort Selden is next best, and has been chosen by General Sheridan after a personal examination of the ground.

I therefore recommend that the Hon. Secretary of War will submit this paper to the Military Committee of the House, asking its favorable consideration.

W. T. SHERMAN,
General.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE MISSOURI,
Fort Leavenworth, Kans., January 18, 1882.

COLONEL: I have the honor to transmit inclosed plans and estimates for buildings required for the large post to be constructed near Fort

Selden, in Southern New Mexico. The estimates are made in detail for each building, and the gross sum is the whole amount needed to build a complete post for twelve companies. Of course these estimates are nearly as close an approximation as can be made so long in advance. A ground plan of the post itself cannot be now furnished, as the exact site is not yet determined, and the general plan of the post must of necessity be made to conform to the inequalities of the ground. I inclose a paper giving in detail and in gross the amount required by the estimates.

I am, colonel, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN POPE,

Brevet Major-General, U. S. A., Commanding.

Col. R. WILLIAMS,

Assistant Adjutant-General, Chicago, Ill.

Estimates of new post at Fort Selden.

Plan No. 7.	Quarters for two field officers	\$13,593 60
8.	Twelve double quarters for company officers.....	87,181 92
9.	Six company barracks, two companies each.....	82,206 22
10.	Hospital.....	11,683 21
11.	Quartermaster's storehouse, two stories, 150 by 30 feet	4,957 70
12.	Subsistence storehouse with basement, 100 by 32 feet.....	3,768 94
13.	Six cavalry stables, one company, 72 animals	22,613 64
14.	Granary.....	4,400 55
15.	Bake-house.....	1,181 15
16.	Magazine.....	783 35
17.	Guard house.....	2,887 90
18.	Office building.....	3,276 96
19.	Commanding officer's quarters.....	6,522 83
No plan.	Band quarters	2,480 40
No plan.	Water-closets for officers	1,771 56
No plan.	Water-closets for men.....	2,141 76
Total		251,451 69

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY,

Washington, D. C., February 6, 1882.

Respectfully submitted to the honorable Secretary of War. The Lieutenant-General is now present in Washington, and we are fully agreed that the time has come when a permanent post should be built at Fort Selden, New Mexico. The site belongs to the United States, and is ample for the purpose. The estimate of \$250,000 may seem large, but will be most economical in the end. When the post is done the military can and will abandon all the little adobe and jackal forts now held for a radius of 200 miles. These old posts are a disgrace to civilization, and now that railroads have penetrated that hitherto inaccessible region, common decency demands that our officers and men shall have decent and clean habitations. If a citizen of Washington were to stable his horse or cow in an "adobe" good enough for soldiers in old New Mexico, Mr. Bergh would have him arrested for cruelty to animals before night.

I therefore recommend the honorable Secretary to urge this case for the prompt action of Congress.

W. T. SHERMAN,

General.

Proposed commanding officer's quarters at Fort Selden, N. Mex.

495 yards excavating	\$99 00
206½ perches of stone masonry	826 00
90,525 brick, laid	1, 357 88
26,104 feet lumber	652 60
6,150 feet flooring	227 55
6,305 feet 1-inch flooring	283 73
1,250 feet 4-inch moulding	50 00
375 feet 6-inch moulding	22 50
380 pounds building paper	22 80
1,554 yards plastering	770 00
12 barrels cement	18 00
Doors and sash	178 80
Stair fixtures	63 50
Hardware	578 15
Nails and screws	76 25
Painters' work	96 00
Carpenters' work	600 00
Total	5,929 86
Ten per cent. contingencies	592 98
Total	6,522 84

Proposed field-officers' quarters at Fort Selden, N. Mex.

484½ cubic yards excavating and removing	\$96 85
192 perches of stone masonry	768 00
87,060 brick, laid	1, 305 90
12 barrels cement	24 00
25,044 feet boards and lumber	626 10
5,950 feet flooring	219 65
6,305 feet clear lumber	283 73
1,250 feet 4-inch moulding	50 00
375 feet 6-inch moulding	22 50
320 pounds building paper	22 20
1,524 yards brick and lath plastering	762 00
Doors and sash	178 80
Stair fixtures	62 48
Hardware	529 90
Nails and screws	76 25
Carpenters' work	600 00
Painters' work	96 00
Total	5,724 36
Ten per cent. contingent	572 44
Total	6,296 80

Proposed company-officers' quarters, double building, at Fort Selden, N. Mex.

261 cubic yards excavating and removing	\$52 20
202 perches of stone masonry	808 00
86,000 brick, laid	1, 275 00
36,049 feet common boards and lumber	901 23
8,200 feet flooring	303 40
6,400 feet clear flooring	288 00
1,700 feet 4-inch moulding	68 00
350 feet 6-inch moulding	21 00
2,468 yards brick and lath plastering	1, 234 00
380 pounds building paper	22 80
Doors and sash	268 00
Stair fixtures	46 00
Hardware	532 00
Nails and screws	79 50
Paint, &c.	53 96
Carpenter's work	600 00
Painters' work	57 60
Total	6,604 69
Ten per cent. contingencies	660 49
Total	7,265 16

Proposed barrack building at Fort Selden, N. Mex.

Lumber.....	\$3,580 93
Doors and sash.....	409 70
Hardware.....	476 20
216 perches of stone, laid.....	864 00
221,400 brick, laid.....	3,321 00
3,600 yards plastering.....	1,800 00
96 yards excavating.....	19 20
124 square yards tin roofing.....	1,178 00
Carpenters' work.....	1,580 00
2,147 yards painting.....	472 32
Total.....	13,701 35

Proposed hospital at Fort Selden, N. Mex.

58,938 feet common boards.....	\$1,473 45
15,500 feet flooring.....	573 50
9,500 feet clear lumber.....	427 50
1,200 feet 4-inch moulding.....	36 00
300 feet 6-inch moulding.....	18 00
1,240 pounds building paper.....	74 40
Doors and sash.....	240 08
Stair material.....	25 00
Hardware.....	407 03
106½ square yards tin roofing.....	1,011 75
2,555 yards plastering.....	1,277 50
356 perches of stone, laid.....	1,424 00
222,000 brick, laid.....	3,330 00
240 yards excavating.....	48 00
Carpenters' work.....	1,050 00
1,200 yards painting.....	264 00
Total.....	11,680 21

Proposed quartermaster's store-house at Fort Selden, N. Mex.

Lumber.....	\$1,086 25
Hardware.....	156 20
Doors and sash.....	145 00
49½ square yards tin roofing.....	470 25
133½ thousand brick, laid.....	2,002 50
90 perches of stone wall.....	360 00
80 yards excavating.....	16 00
Carpenters' work.....	645 00
153 yards plastering.....	76 50
Total.....	4,957 70

Proposed commissary store-house at Fort Selden, N. Mex.

Lumber.....	\$886 82
Doors and sash.....	94 56
Hardware.....	114 86
266 yards plastering.....	133 00
160 perches of stone, laid.....	640 00
55,600 brick, laid.....	834 00
711 yards excavating.....	142 20
41 square yards tin roofing.....	389 50
Carpenters' work.....	534 00
Total.....	3,768 94

Proposed stable at Fort Selden, N. Mex.

Hardware.....	\$721 05
Lumber.....	82 95
Sash.....	39 20
67 square yards tin roofing.....	636 50
86,000 brick, laid.....	1,290 00
110 perches of stone.....	440 00
67 yards excavating.....	13 40
Carpenters' work.....	460 00
Total.....	3,683 10

Proposed granary at Fort Selden, N. Mex.

46,360 feet common boards.....	\$1, 159 00
300 feet matched flooring.....	11 10
500 feet dressed boards.....	15 00
Hardware.....	62 00
94,500 brick, laid.....	1, 417 50
166 perches of stone, laid.....	664 00
124 yards excavating.....	24 80
60½ square yards tin roofing.....	574 75
Carpenters' work.....	450 00
16 sash.....	22 40
Total.....	4, 400 55

Proposed bake-house at Fort Selden, N. Mex.

29 cubic yards excavating.....	\$5 80
65 perches of stone.....	260 00
26,050 brick, laid.....	390 75
1,000 fire-brick, laid.....	50 00
3,912 feet common boards.....	97 80
720 feet 1-inch flooring.....	26 64
250 feet 1-inch boards.....	11 25
350 feet plank.....	15 75
100 pounds building paper.....	6 00
Doors and sash.....	33 50
Hardware.....	105 78
Nails.....	10 50
Carpenters' work.....	60 00
Total.....	1, 073 77
10 per cent. contingencies.....	107 38
Total.....	1, 181 15

Proposed magazine at Fort Selden, N. Mex.

Lumber.....	\$68 10
Hardware.....	159 25
4 square yards tin roofing.....	38 00
29,000 brick, laid.....	435 00
20 perches of stone.....	80 00
15 yards excavating.....	3 00
Total.....	783 35

Proposed guard-house at Fort Selden, N. Mex.

Lumber.....	\$946 80
Hardware.....	148 28
72 perches of stone, laid.....	288 00
46,000 brick, laid.....	690 00
70 yards plastering.....	35 00
173 yards plastering.....	51 90
36 yards excavating.....	7 20
Carpenters' work.....	462 00
24 square yards tin roofing.....	228 00
Doors and sash.....	30 72
Total.....	2, 837 90

Proposed office building at Fort Selden, N. Mex.

23 yards excavating.....	\$4 60
78 perches of stone masonry, laid.....	312 00
60,000 brick, laid.....	900 00
15,880 feet common boards.....	397 70
4,080 feet 1-inch flooring.....	150 96
1,200 feet boards.....	54 00
1,000 feet plank.....	45 00
280 pounds building paper.....	16 80
230 yards plastering.....	265 00
Doors and sash.....	100 90
Stair fixtures.....	21 10
Hardware.....	260 55
Nails.....	36 00
Paints and oil.....	28 85

Carpenters' work.....	\$328 00
Painters' work	57 60
Total	2,979 06
10 per cent. contingencies	297 90
Total	3,276 96

Proposed band quarters at Fort Selden, N. Mex.

Lumber.....	\$609 77
Hardware.....	62 65
Doors and sash.....	84 38
650 yards plastering.....	325 00
39,000 brick, laid.....	585 00
69 yards excavating.....	13 80
48 perches of stone, laid.....	112 00
Carpenters' work.....	286 00
340 yards painting.....	74 80
76 square yards tin roofing.....	247 00
Total.....	2,480 40

Proposed company water-closets at Fort Selden, N. Mex.

Lumber.....	\$27 87
Hardware.....	309 00
Sash.....	3 00
8,000 brick, laid.....	120 00
39 perch of stone.....	156 00
65 yards excavating.....	13 00
Carpenters' work.....	15 00
2 square yards tin roofing.....	19 00
Total.....	356 96

Proposed water-closets for officers' quarters at Fort Selden, N. Mex.

49 cubic yards excavating.....	\$9 80
12½ perch of stone masonry.....	50 00
2,950 brick, laid.....	44 25
146 feet boards.....	3 19
30 feet flooring.....	1 11
85 feet dressed boards.....	3 83
Doors and sash.....	3 60
Hardware.....	5 25
Nails.....	60
Carpenters' work.....	4 91
Total.....	126 54

Proposed new buildings at Fort Selden, N. Mex.

Quarters for troops.....	\$13,593 60
12 double company officers' quarters.....	87,181 92
6 company barracks.....	82,206 82
Hospital.....	11,683 21
Quartermaster's store-house.....	4,957 70
Subsistence storehouse.....	3,768 94
6 cavalry stables.....	22,613 64
Granary.....	4,400 55
Bake-house.....	1,181 15
Magazine.....	783 35
Guard-house.....	2,887 90
Office building.....	3,276 96
Commanding officers' quarters.....	6,522 83
Band quarters.....	2,480 40
Officers' water-closets.....	1,771 56
Men's water-closets.....	2,141 76
Total.....	251,451 69

True copies.

J. G. CHANDLER,
Deputy Quartermaster-General, U. S. A.QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
February 23, 1882.